

## CLAIMS

1) A guardrail terminal (1), characterized by comprising a number of vertical supporting members (4) fixed to the ground one after the other along the edge (3) of the road; a first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) fixed to the vertical supporting members (4) at a given height off the ground, and positioned in the horizontal plane so as to extend gradually away from the edge (3) of the road, as of the end of the guardrail (2); and a curled second transverse horizontal retaining member (6), which projects from the terminal end (5a) of said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), curves back in the horizontal plane towards said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), and is fixed by its own terminal end (6a) to the start end (5a) or to an intermediate portion of said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), so as to form, together with the first transverse horizontal retaining member, a substantially tear-shaped collapsible annular member (7).

2) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) is curved.

3) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) is curved in the horizontal plane with a constant radius of curvature ( $r_1$ ).

4) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) comprises at least one segment (12) of corrugated sheet metal with a three-ridge or W-shaped cross section.

5) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said second transverse horizontal retaining member (6) comprises an initial portion (13) fixed to the terminal end (5a) of said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), and bent substantially into an L in the horizontal plane, so as to have, centrally, a given constant radius of curvature ( $r_2$ ); an intermediate portion (15) bent substantially into a V in the horizontal plane, so as to have, centrally, a given constant radius of curvature ( $r_3$ ); and an appropriately shaped end portion (16), the end of which is fixed directly to said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5).

6) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the end portion (16) of said second transverse horizontal retaining member (6) is bent substantially into an S in the horizontal plane, so that its first portion has a given first radius of curvature ( $r_4$ ), and its second portion has a given second radius of curvature ( $r_5$ ).

7) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the second portion of the end portion (16) of said second transverse horizontal

retaining member (6) has a radius of curvature ( $r_5$ ) substantially equal to the radius of curvature ( $r_1$ ) of said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), so that a portion of the length of the second portion  
5 overlaps the first transverse horizontal retaining member.

8) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that said initial portion (13), said intermediate portion (15), and said end portion (16) of  
10 said second transverse horizontal retaining member (6) are defined by at least one segment (13, 15, 16) of corrugated sheet metal with a triple-ridge or w-shaped cross section.